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## Bulletin of the Archaeological Museum of the “Studium Biblicum Franciscanum”

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### News:

#### **Israeli guides learn about the discoveries of the Franciscans**

On Tuesday 28 May a group of thirty-three Israeli guides, participating in a one-day refresher session on the Franciscans, visited a number of sites identified with the presence of the friars in Jerusalem. The group, coordinated by Yiska Haran, went in the morning to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and then visited the interior of St. Saviour's Monastery where they were also able to explore the new General Library of the Custody of the Holy Land, which recently underwent a major renovation.

In the afternoon they went to the Monastery of the Flagellation; with the assistance and explanations of the director, Father Eugenio Alliata, the guides visited the Church of the Flagellation, the Chapel of the Condemnation and the archaeological museum. This very interesting initiative shows that there is a very definite desire on the part of Israeli guides to learn more about, and be able to better communicate, the complex and fascinating historical and archaeological heritage connected with Jesus' life and with the origin and development of Christianity in the Holy Land.



## Scientific Activities:

### **Enrico and the study of the Jewish collection**

Enrico Tromba came to Jerusalem to study the Jewish objects displayed in the rooms of the archaeological museum. Having specialized in classical archaeology at the University of Bari in Italy, in 2011 he began a research doctorate in Jewish History, Literature and Culture at the University of Bologna with the joint supervision of the University of the Sorbonne in Paris.

In Jerusalem he has been studying an architectural fragment from the city of Gadara, containing a decoration with a menorah, a shofar and a lulav, the palm branch traditionally used by the Jews during the Feast of Sukkot.



In addition, he has begun cataloguing the ossuaries discovered in the Roman necropolis at *Dominus flevit* in Jerusalem. These objects are particularly interesting since they provide information on the funeral customs of the inhabitants of Jerusalem during the period from the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC to the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD. Apart from their decorations, many bear the names of the deceased inscribed in Greek, Hebrew or Aramaic.

## Daniela is bringing the ancient mosaics of Zeugma back to life

Daniela Massara returned to Jerusalem in order to study three mosaic fragments representing the personifications of three provinces of the Roman Empire. Daniela, a specialist in classical archaeology at the University of Milan, has been collaborating with the Museum of the Studium Biblicum in Jerusalem since 2009, the year in which she began cataloguing the archaeological finds in the rooms of the museum.



During the month of May Daniela continued her research. The mosaic fragments, representing the provinces of Germania, Africa and Mauretania in the form of female characters, were part of a mosaic pavement from a Roman *domus* in the city of Zeugma dating from the 2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD. From the same pavement seven other medallions remain, dispersed among various museums, representing other provinces.

The fragments preserved in the Franciscan museum contain the head, part of an explanatory inscription in Greek and several decorations.